

From: [Nightingale, Elizabeth](#)
To: [Clements, Mindy](#)
Subject: FW: Berrien County Site Demolition and Recycling (Ace Companies formerly known Tobian Metals, Alreco Metals)
Date: Thursday, April 03, 2014 2:40:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Just FYI – For now DEQ is handling this site themselves instead of referring it.

Betsy Nightingale
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From: Baranoski, Michael (DEQ) [mailto:BARANOSKIM@michigan.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 01, 2014 4:39 PM
To: Nightingale, Elizabeth
Subject: RE: Berrien County Site Demolition and Recycling (Ace Companies formerly known Tobian Metals, Alreco Metals)

*Hi Betsy,
I inspected the site and met with the property owner, Mr. Reid, this afternoon. Mr. Reid proposes to place tarps over the ash piles (more ash than dross) after he special orders the large tarps he will need (hopefully, 6-8 weeks?). He plans to remove the ash by the end of summer. There are a variety of other issues associated with this property. I have attached a link to some pictures taken at the site recently.*

I am going to discuss this issue with the division supervisors as there are questions as to whether Mr. Reid has the resources to take care of the problems and respond to this problem in a timely manner.

I expect that

Michael Baranoski
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From: Nightingale, Elizabeth [<mailto:nightingale.elizabeth@epa.gov>]
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 12:07 PM
To: Baranoski, Michael (DEQ)
Subject: RE: Berrien County Site Demolition and Recycling (Ace Companies formerly known Tobian Metals, Alreco Metals)

Ok – sounds good. Please just let me know if you need any help from us.

Betsy

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From: Baranoski, Michael (DEQ) [<mailto:BARANOSKIM@michigan.gov>]
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 12:04 PM
To: Nightingale, Elizabeth
Subject: FW: Berrien County Site Demolition and Recycling (Ace Companies formerly known Tobian Metals, Alreco Metals)

Hi Elizabeth, Frank Ballo just put me in contact with the property owner. He claims he will address the dross on site and I plan on meeting him on site tomorrow to discuss his intentions. I will get contact information from him when I meet him, and hopefully his intentions to clean up this mess will be acceptable. I will let you know what I find out.

Best regards and we appreciate you quick reply to this. We were not sure that we could find a contact for this site. I plan to use a potential EPA response and cost recovery as a lever to encourage a rapid response by the property owner.

Mike

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From: Baranoski, Michael (DEQ)

Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 11:44 AM

To: Deskins, Matthew (DEQ)

Cc: 'Hohm, Janelle (DEQ)'

Subject: FW: Berrien County Site Demolition and Recycling (Ace Companies formerly known Tobian Metals, Alreco Metals)

Hi Matt, I spoke with Mr. Reid, the property owner this morning and plan to meet him on site tomorrow. He stated that the building had collapsed (hence the demolition you saw) and that he thinks he can have the dross recycled, but he needs to make arrangements to haul this stuff and bring equipment to the site.

He plans to cover the dross with tarps to prevent it from becoming airborne and to prevent rainwater from soaking it. Do you see any problems with this in the short term? Thanks much, Mike

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From: Ballo, Frank (DEQ)

Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 11:32 AM

To: Hohm, Janelle (DEQ); Jordan, Kameron (DEQ); Sanders, Jerrod (DEQ)

Cc: Spagnoli, Robert (DEQ); Deskins, Matthew (DEQ); Sellers, Fred (DEQ); Baranoski, Michael (DEQ)

Subject: RE: Berrien County Site Demolition and Recycling (Ace Companies formerly known Tobian Metals, Alreco Metals)

We received a call back from the principal of the company, Dorie Reid, and Mike Baranoski scheduled a meeting with him at the site tomorrow. Mike, note the WRD issues below and attached. This may end up being a multi-media response, Mike will be following up with the other divisions. We still have EPA in our back pocket if Reid cannot/will not mount a timely response.

From: Hohm, Janelle (DEQ)

Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 11:22 AM

To: Ballo, Frank (DEQ); Jordan, Kameron (DEQ); Sanders, Jerrod (DEQ)

Cc: Spagnoli, Robert (DEQ)

Subject: RE: Berrien County Site Demolition and Recycling (Ace Companies formerly known Tobian Metals, Alreco Metals)

I am looking through the file and records in NMS to try to figure out if the site has storm sewers. The common theme among all of the inspection reports is that "the facility site map needs to include more detail regarding the storm water flow throughout the site and the outfalls which will receive storm water from various areas of the site."

There was definitely a discharge from the site to waters of the state. In 2007, the certified operator responded (to Steve Lewis' letter) that he was amending the facility site map, with a date of completion of May 18, 2007. It looks like this revised map was never submitted to DEQ. When the site was inspected again by Bob Spagnoli in 2010, the certified operator had left, and all of the files were gone.

There is a map in DEQ's file, which does not include catch basins or storm water flows. There are some hand markings, which appear to be Bob's. I'm giving the file to Bob, and hopefully he can shed some light on this. There were exposure issues at the time of Bob's inspection, and a letter and report were sent. The company never responded. I will forward those documents in a separate e-mail, directly from NMS.

The industrial storm water permit expired on April 1, 2013. I called the company last year to follow up, and the call did not go through. Since it appeared the facility had ceased operations and would therefore no longer need an ISW permit, DEQ had not followed up further.

From the photos, this looks like an urgent situation. DEQ should have followed up further back in 2010, although at that point the worst issues were inside the buildings (which were already in disrepair), not the outside exposures to storm waters. I remember Bob showing me the photos and discussing this with me, but I can't remember what happened afterwards (e.g. if we informed someone in Waste or RRD).

Photos from inspections are in NMS, designated name is Ace Co LLC.

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From: Ballo, Frank (DEQ)
Sent: Friday, March 28, 2014 9:04 AM
To: Jordan, Kameron (DEQ); Sanders, Jerrod (DEQ); Hohm, Janelle (DEQ)
Subject: FW: Berrien County Site Demolition and Recycling (Ace Companies formerly known Tobian Metals, Alreco Metals)
Importance: High

Good morning, WRD! I'm wondering if you know whether this facility, which looks like it's immediately adjacent to wetlands and about 200 feet from the Paw Paw River, has storm sewer(s)?



From: Deskins, Matthew (DEQ)
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2014 9:41 AM
To: Ballo, Frank (DEQ); Baranoski, Michael (DEQ); Venechuk, Katie (DEQ); Sellers, Fred (DEQ)
Cc: Douglas, Mary (DEQ)
Subject: Berrien County Site Demolition and Recycling (Ace Companies formerly known Tobian Metals, Alreco Metals)

Hi Everyone,

I was out in the field yesterday and went by an old facility of mine (Ace Companies d.b.a. Harbor Light Metals) that I use to inspect but has been closed since June of 2010. I noticed that someone has been doing building demolition and scrapping activities. The facility/location has always processed Secondary Aluminum and is located at 900 Alreco Road, Benton Harbor, Berrien County and at one time was Tobian Metals, Alreco Metals, etc. I don't know the current ownership situation because they've been going through bankruptcy proceedings for a number of years but it was last owned by a man named Dorie Reid. No one was at the site during my visit but the neighbor across the road (Padnos Iron and Metal Recycling) said that Randy's Recycling had been recycling some material and that RJ Torching has been in there most recent. My main concern, besides potential asbestos notification issues, is all the leftover aluminum dross waste that is currently in concrete bins. By demolishing the building around them, the dross is now exposed to the elements which is why I wanted to make you guys aware of it. Frank and Mike, you may recall that Ace Companies received various brownfield monies/ grants to clean up the previous owners aluminum dross waste prior to them starting the plant up again. I think that was around 2005 and Prism was their consultant. I've attached some photos and please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks all.

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Alreco Dr

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Paw
Paw
River



Department of Environmental Quality